

Decision **00-09-014** September 07, 2000

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the State of California,
Department of Transportation, for an order
authorizing the Department to: widen State
Route 50 in Sacramento County over the tracks of
the Sacramento regional Transit District (PUC
Nos. AH-108.81-A and AH-116.560-A), located in
the City of Folsom, Sacramento County, State of
California

Application 00-04-026
(Filed April 13, 2000)

OPINION

The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) requests authority to widen the State Route 50 overcrossing in Sacramento County over the Sacramento Regional Transit District (District) Track (PUC Nos. AH-108.81-A and AH-116.650-A) located in the City of Folsom, Sacramento County, State of California. As part of the project, High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes will be added to State Route 50.

It is anticipated that the project will be financed with State and Federal funds and that Caltrans and the District will be in agreement as to the work to be performed and the apportionment of costs. The cost will be apportioned in accordance with the agreement to be negotiated between the parties, or in the event the parties are unable to agree, the costs shall be proportioned as provided by law.

The section of State Route 50 where the HOV lanes will be added is currently a two-lane, two-direction highway. The HOV lanes will be added to 11.3 miles of State Route 50. The project begins approximately 12.1 miles west of

the El Dorado County line and ends 0.8 miles east of the El Dorado County line. The project includes enclosing the median on State Route 50 at the Natoma Overhead and White Rock Overhead. A map of the project vicinity is set forth as Appendix A.

The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) on State Route 50 is 64,000. There is no train operation at the present time.

The proposed addition of HOV lanes to State Route 50 will benefit the public by improving traffic operations, increasing mainline capacity, and providing opportunity and incentive to carpool.

The State of California, acting by and through the Department of Transportation, is the lead agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA), as amended, Public Resource Code Sections 21000, et. seq. After preparation and review of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), State of California approved the project. On July 8, 1998, the Department of Transportation filed a CEQA Notice of Determination with the State Clearinghouse. The project was found not to have a significant effect on the environment.

The Commission is the responsible agency for this project under CEQA and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR and Notice of Determination.

The site of the proposed project has been inspected by the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division (RSCD) Rail Crossings Engineering staff. The staff examined the need for and safety of the proposed crossing and recommends that the requested authority be granted.

Application 00-04-026 meets the filing requirements of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, including Rule 39 which relates to the widening of an existing public highway across a railroad.

In Resolution ALJ 176-3038 dated May 4, 2000, the Commission preliminarily categorized this application as ratesetting, and preliminarily determined that hearings were not necessary. No protests have been received. The Commission's RSCD recommends that this application be granted. Given these developments, a public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to disturb the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3038.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to PU code Section 311 (g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

Findings of Fact

1. Notice of the application was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on April 26, 2000. No protests have been filed.
2. Caltrans requests authority, under Public Utilities Code Section 1201-1205, to widen State Route 50 at separated grades above the tracks of the Sacramento Regional Transit District identified as Natoma Overhead PUC Crossing Number AH-108.81-A and White Rock Overhead PUC Number AH-116.560-A.
3. The State of California, acting by and through the Department of Transportation, (Caltrans) is the lead agency for this project under CEQA, as amended.
4. The Commission is a responsible agency for this project and has reviewed and considered the lead agency's EIR and Notice of Determination.
5. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Conclusions of Law

1. The application is uncontested and a public hearing is not necessary.
2. The application should be granted as set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is authorized to widen State Route 50 over the tracks of the Sacramento Regional Transit District in Sacramento County at the location as shown on the plans attached to the application, to be identified as Natoma Overhead PUC Crossing Number AH-108.81-A and White Rock overhead PUC Crossing Number AH-116.560-A.
2. Clearances shall be in accordance General Order (GO) 26-D.
3. Construction and maintenance costs shall be borne in accordance with an agreement to be entered into between the parties. A copy of the agreement shall be filed by the Department of Transportation with the Commission's Rail Safety and Carriers Division (RSCD) prior to commencing construction. Should the parties fail to agree, the Commission will apportion the costs of construction and maintenance by further order.
4. Final construction plans, approved by County and Sacramento Regional Transit District, shall be filed by the Department of Transportation with RSCD prior to commencing construction.
5. Department of Transportation will inform the RSCD Rail Crossings Engineering Section in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of the completion of this project.

6. This authorization shall expire if not exercised within three (3) years unless time is extended or if the above conditions are not complied with. Authorization may be revoked or modified if public convenience, necessity, or safety so require.

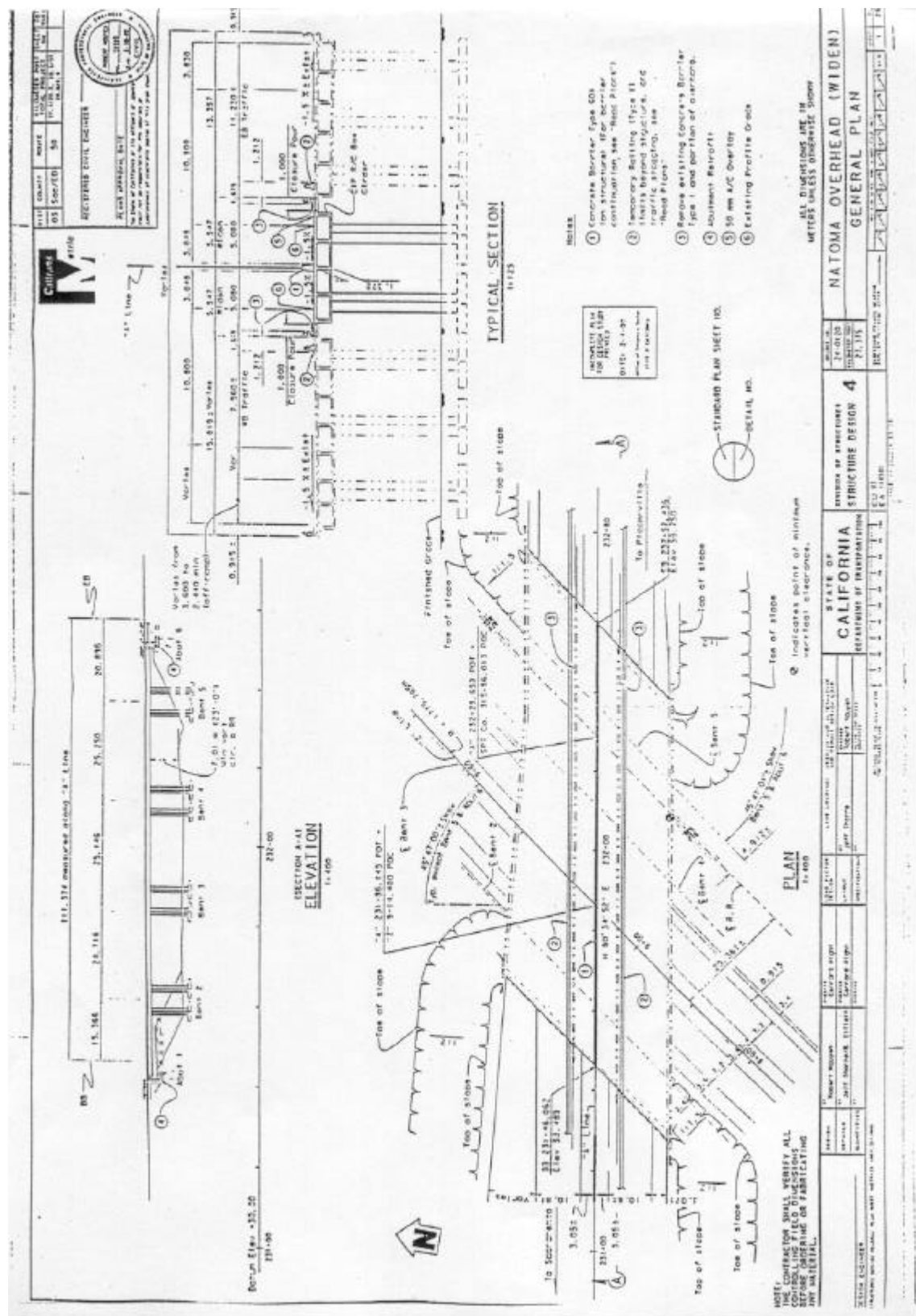
7. This application is granted as set forth above.

8. Application 00-04-026 is closed.

This order becomes effective thirty (30) days from today.

Dated September 07, 2000, at San Francisco, California.

LORETTA M. LYNCH
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
RICHARD A. BILAS
CARL W. WOOD
Commissioners



APPENDIX A

MAP 2

